

February 6, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

SUBJECT: Report to the Michigan Legislature

The Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council was appointed in accordance with 2003 PA 148 (Act 148). Enclosed is a report of the Council as required under Section 32803(3) of Act 148. The report addresses the issues contained in Section 32803(2) as follows:

- (a) Study the sustainability of the state's groundwater use and whether the state should provide additional oversight of groundwater withdrawals.*
- (b) Monitor Annex 2001 implementation efforts and make recommendations on Michigan's statutory conformance with Annex 2001, including whether groundwater withdrawals should be subject to best management practices or certification requirements and whether groundwater withdrawals impact water-dependent natural features.*
- (c) Study the implementation of and the results from the groundwater dispute resolution program created in part 317.*

This report is a comprehensive study of groundwater issues including the relationship of groundwater with all water resources. The report contains a detailed list of specific findings and recommendations to improve our knowledge and provide added protection to the public health and environment. The report will be placed on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Web site at the following address: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-gwcac-legislature.pdf>.

Additional copies of the report may be requested by writing the MDEQ or copies may be produced from the electronic version on the Internet.

This report results from an extensive volunteer work effort by the Council members, who generously gave of their time and effort without compensation, in cooperation with their employers or sponsoring organizations for the past two years. The Council is especially thankful for the many people who prepared formal presentations on various groundwater subjects and to the individuals who regularly attended the public meetings as public participants.

The Council's work, and the preparation of this report, was made possible through the excellent work of Mr. James Nicholas, United States Geological Survey, who worked on the project under a Joint Funding Agreement with the MDEQ providing additional matching funds to assure the success of the project.

The Council is pleased to provide you a copy of this report in recognition of your interest in environmental protection. We encourage you to inform others of the report and to provide feedback to any member of the Council.

Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council Members:

Mr. Jon Allan, Consumers Energy Company

Mr. James K. Cleland, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. James Clift, Michigan Environmental Council

Mr. Jon Coleman, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Michael R. Gregg, Michigan Department of Agriculture

Mr. Kurt Heise, Wayne County Department of Environment

Mr. Fred Henningsen, Michigan State University

Mr. Craig Hoffman, The Rock on Drummond Island

Mr. Rod Mersino, Mersino Dewatering, Inc.

Mr. Thomas Newhof, Prein & Newhof

Mr. Michael Newman, Michigan Aggregates Association

Dr. Paul Seelbach, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Alan Steinman, Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University